Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, the bills before your Committee today provide for the establishment of the Tocks Island National Recreation Area in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. There are also some lands in New York which we believe would be appropriate for inclusion within the national recreation area. This legislation would complete the authorization of the Tocks Island Dam and Reservoir project and carry out the multi-purpose development of the Tocks Island area on the Delaware River, provided by the Flood Control Act of 1962 (75 Stat. 1182). The Tocks Island Dam and Reservoir project, including the Tocks Island National Recreation Area, will place much needed multiple-purpose water resource benefits within reach of more than 45 million Americans in the Nation's most densely populated region.

In his Message on Natural Beauty, delivered to the Congress on February 8, President Johnson specifically endorsed establishment of the Tocks Island National Recreation Area.
The Flood Control Act of 1962 authorized the Army Corps of Engineers to construct the Tocks Island Dam as the major unit in the comprehensive water resource development plan for the Delaware River Basin. The aforesaid Act authorized acquisition by the Corps of Engineers of 24,300 acres, 14,800 of them for the dam and reservoir and 9,500 for directly related recreational development. We are advised that Corps of Engineers surveys show that the authorized land acquisition may include another 2,378 acres along the Delaware above the upstream boundary shown on the official map described in the bills, where the reservoir will extend at its highest levels. The additional acreage in New York is 514; in New Jersey, 845; and in Pennsylvania, 1,019 acres. We are not prepared at this time, however, to recommend the inclusion of any specific acreage.

The earthen dam at Tocks Island, six miles above the Delaware Water Gap, will create a reservoir of some 14,500 surface acres at flood level---12,000 acres at its normal level---on the Delaware River. The authorized project will provide the only main stem dam and reservoir on the Delaware River with substantial water supply, flood control and hydroelectric power benefits, as well as limited recreational facilities. The Comprehensive Report on the Delaware River Basin by the Corps of Engineers proposed the creation of the Tocks Island National Recreation Area. In enacting the Flood Control Act of 1962, however, the Congress
authorized only limited recreation development and deferred
consideration of the Tocks Island National Recreation Area plan
because it felt that such legislation should be considered separately
under the terms of bills then pending in Congress. The legislation
before this Subcommittee would authorize the additional land
acquisition and development necessary to establish the Tocks Island
National Recreation Area.

Since last June, when we appeared before this Subcommittee
in support of the Tocks Island National Recreation Area, the Congress
has enacted the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. Thanks
in large part to the leadership of this Committee, we now have the
means of funding the land acquisition program for this national
recreation area. If amended as we recommend, the bills will require
the land purchased under them for the recreation area to be
financed from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Secretaries of the Interior and the Army would coordinate
their administrative responsibilities in the acquisition of land and
in the management of the Area to assure maximum public benefits.

This legislation has the approval of the Delaware River
Basin Commission, on which the Secretary of the Interior represents
the Executive Branch of the Federal Government, and the Governors of New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware represent the four States in the Delaware River Basin. The Governors of the four Basin States are on record in favor of the Tocks Island National Recreation Area bills, and public hearings held in recent years throughout the Delaware River Basin demonstrate overwhelming support for its creation.

Establishment of the Tocks Island National Recreation Area would provide and protect a priceless outdoor recreation resource in the densely populated East. The Tocks Island Dam will impound waters of the Delaware to form a lake some thirty-seven miles long and from a half mile to a mile and a half wide, in surroundings of exceptional natural beauty. The area has outstanding natural recreation attractions: the Delaware Water Gap, mountains, trails, waterfalls, ponds, woodlands, streams, and other natural, scenic, scientific and historic features which would complement the focal point of the large reservoir. These features and the reservoir would be included in the 72,000-acre National Recreation Area, which would consist of approximately 57,200 acres of land and 14,500 acres of water surface. Approximately 300 land acres would be used for the damsite and related works.

An area of such quality would constitute a superb outdoor recreation resource in any part of the United States. But located in
the Delaware watershed, it has much greater significance. The proposed Tocks Island National Recreation Area is 65 miles from New York City, and 80 miles from Philadelphia. Within a 250-mile radius, its immediate zone of influence, there reside nearly 46 million people, roughly 25 percent of the nation's population. We estimate that this Recreation Area would attract—and could comfortably accommodate—at least 10 million visitors annually. No comparable publicly owned, water-based recreation area exists anywhere in the Northeastern United States.

Although the flood control, water supply and hydroelectric power benefits in the overall Tocks Island Dam and Reservoir project will be of great economic and social significance to this densely populated region, the creation of the national recreation area undoubtedly will result in Tocks Island becoming better known to more people for recreation than for all the other purposes combined. In a highly urbanized region, the recreation area will provide life-enhancing, scenic open space, properly equipped with recreational opportunities. It will relieve over-taxed recreational facilities and provide sorely lacking places to go for wholesome outdoor activity.

Because of its spaciousness, its outstanding quality for outdoor recreation, its interstate character, and its ability to
serve so many millions of people, this select area is ideally suited to federal administration. This view, which this legislation would implement, also takes into consideration the magnitude of the recreational facilities required, its easy accessibility to the nation's most concentrated megalopolis, and the fact that this area is of such scope and size that it exceeds the normal capabilities of the States directly affected.

The proposed Tocks Island National Recreation Area measures up fully to the criteria for such areas set forth by the President's Recreation Advisory Council. The area would help fulfill the need for outdoor recreation opportunities close to urban areas, a need emphasized in the report of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission. The Delaware River Basin Commission, established under authority of the Joint Resolution approved September 27, 1961 (75 Stat. 688), takes the view that the recreation facilities associated with the multi-purpose Tocks Island Reservoir project could be administered most effectively by the Federal Government through the National Park Service. A recommendation to this effect was included by the Commission in its Comprehensive Plan, adopted March 28, 1962.

Gentlemen, we are convinced of the importance of early, favorable action on this legislation. Further delays will only result in greatly increased costs, loss of a valuable opportunity to coordinate
with the Corps of Engineers in land acquisition and development, and prolonged uncertainty for the political subdivisions, property owners and other citizens of the area involved. The Tocks Island Dam and Reservoir Project has been authorized and funds are being provided to move it ahead. It is imperative that the Tocks Island National Recreation Area land acquisition and development of recreation facilities may be carried out on a time schedule consistent with the plans for the construction of the Dam and the impoundment of the reservoir.

Unlike many other proposals which come before the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, the Tocks Island National Recreation Area has little opposition. Expressions in the press, resolutions by public and private organizations, and the Federal, State, and local officials in the four-State area concerned with water resource development support the proposal.

We urge favorable action by your Committee on legislation to authorize establishment of the Tocks Island National Recreation Area. A spokesman for the National Park Service, Ronnie Lee who is Regional Director, is here to explain details of the project.

Thank you very much.

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